

Meal Charge Policy

As of January 24, 2012

The DCPS student charge policy will alert parents or guardians when a student's negative meal balance reaches two charge thresholds. If a student's balance reaches the charge cutoff point, the student will be given a reimbursable salad for lunch until the balance is paid in full.

This policy will go into effect on **August 22, 2011**. All negative balances from previous school years will be cleared prior to that date.

Meal Prices

In school year 2011-12, elementary students classified as paid or who have not submitted an application for free and reduced meals (FARM) will be charged \$1.35 for lunch. Secondary students classified as paid or who have not submitted a FARM application will be charged \$1.60 for lunch.

Lunch is free to students classified as reduced and students attending schools that have been certified as Provision 2. Breakfast and supper are universally free for all students.

Negative Balance Thresholds

First Communication:

Upon accumulating a \$6.75 negative balance (5 unpaid elementary lunches) or an \$8 negative balance (5 unpaid secondary lunches), a letter will be sent home to the student's residence.

Second Communication:

Upon accumulating a \$13.50 negative balance (10 unpaid elementary lunches) or a \$16.00 negative balance (10 unpaid secondary lunches), an automated call will be placed to the student's residence.

Third Communication

Upon accumulating a \$20.25 negative balance (15 unpaid elementary lunches) or a \$24.00 negative balance (15 unpaid secondary lunches), the school Principal, Registrar, and Business Manager will be notified.

Charge Cutoff

Upon accumulating a \$27.00 negative balance (20 unpaid elementary lunches) or a \$32.00 negative balance (20 unpaid secondary lunches), DCPS will serve the student a reimbursable salad until the balance is paid in full. A vegetarian salad will be available to students with dietary restrictions.

Meal Payment

Students can pay for meals three ways:

1. By bringing cash or a check made payable to the D.C. Treasurer to the cafeteria staff before, in between, and after meal periods;
2. By inserting cash into a MyPAL Kiosk, located in the school cafeteria; and
3. By paying with a credit or debit card at mylunchmoney.com, an online prepayment service.

Application Receipt

If a negative balance accrues for a student qualifying for free or reduced meals and it was found that the application took longer than ten business days to process, the balance will be deleted for the processing period.

Late Classification

If a student's account reaches the charge cutoff and the student later qualifies for free or reduced meals, the student will be given a standard lunch meal but will continue to receive balance notifications.

If a student has accumulated a negative balance and is later directly certified for free meals, his or her full balance will be deleted.

Account Deactivation

If, for any reason, a parent wishes to deactivate his or her student's meal account, this request must be submitted in writing to food.dcps@dc.gov or via phone to 202-442-5112.